

Independent ISPs do more than just provide internet connectivity - they offer many different levels of support (email filtering, domain registration, web hosting, etc.). If the RBOCs are allowed to set their wholesale prices high enough to kill off independent ISPs, these service choices will go away along with them, and the RBOCs will have much less competitive reason to provide them, at any price.

I currently have broadband through my cable system (because it's the only thing that works in my neighborhood - Verizon won't do DSL here, and they won't let anyone else do it either) AND a dial-up service as a back-up. If my dial-up ISP could resell broadband access from my cable system or local DSL, I'd switch to them in a heartbeat, even if it cost a little more than buying it direct, because I like their service better.